

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] device as recited in Claim 13 for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device, further comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for comparing the first signal to a noise threshold to ascertain a starting point for the first comparison;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for changing the threshold in response to passage of a predetermined amount of time.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[13]] 30, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.

12. (Previously Presented) A device for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing;

an arrangement for comparing the first signal to a noise threshold to ascertain a starting point for the first comparison; and

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an arrangement for determining a starting point for the first comparison from a third signal of the environment sensor system.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 12, further comprising: an arrangement for setting the noise threshold as a function of the third signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 12, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 12, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

17. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[13]] 30, further comprising:

an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

18. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

19. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[13]] 30, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

20. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 11, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

21. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

22. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 11, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

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23. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 10, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 10, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 24, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

26. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 10, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.

27. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 26, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

28. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 26, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

29. (Previously Presented) A device for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for determining a starting point for the first comparison from a third signal of the environment sensor system.

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30. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] device for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for changing the threshold ~~recited in Claim 13 response to passage of a predetermined amount of time~~, wherein the threshold is raised after passage of the predetermined amount of time without detection of an impact.

31. (Previously Presented) A device for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold; and

an arrangement for changing the threshold as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing;

wherein the threshold is changed as a function of an impact time predicted based on the second signal.

32. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 31, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.